



Singapore Glam. T+L visits the newly opened Wanderlust and finds a design-savvy boutique with an edge. *By* NAOMI LINDT



■ **THE OVERVIEW** Given the success of his retro-chic New Majestic Hotel and Hotel 1929, it's no surprise that Singaporean Loh Lik Peng's latest creation, Wanderlust, is generating plenty of buzz just three months after opening this summer. The chic yet casual boutique stay, housed in a renovated schoolhouse built in the 1920's, has fast become a favorite for fashion shoots thanks to its playful, riotously inventive aesthetic: think eye-popping details both old and new, from the façade's original Art Nouveau-inspired tiles to the lobby's spherical Tom Dixon plastic-and-chrome lamps and angular gray molded-polymer Heller sofa by Frank Gehry. 2 Dickson Rd.; 65/6396-3322; wanderlusthotel.com; doubles from S\$180.

■ **THE AREA** On the fringe of Little India and a 10-minute walk to Kampong Glam's hookah bars and Malay eateries, the hotel offers easy access to two of Singapore's most vibrant neighborhoods. Guests receive complimentary passport-size guides to the area upon arrival, which include shopping, sightseeing and, of course, eating tips—be sure to get your hands dirty with some of the excellent South Indian cuisine nearby. The Little India and Bugis MRT stops are both within walking distance.

■ **THE DESIGN** The hotel's show-stopping design flourishes come courtesy of four leading local creative agencies, each tasked one of four floors. Asylum's street-level restaurant-lounge, Cocotte, has white-washed wooden tables, raw oxidized-steel counters, pendant lamps fashioned from Campari soda bottles and vintage barber chairs hand-picked from Loh's

personal collection. Accommodation runs the gamut from Phunk Studio's second-floor Pantone units to DP Architects' third-floor monochrome rooms and fFurious's wildly inventive fourth-floor lofts, which might include a typewriter-styled sofa, a tree swaying with felt leaves or a star-spangled ceiling. Even the outdoor elevator shaft is hung with outsize metal flowers.

■ **THE SERVICE** Don't be fooled by the front-desk staff's youthful looks: they're professionals in every way. Taxis were ordered promptly, a noise complaint in one of the elevator-facing rooms resulted in an immediate switch, and guests were greeted by name. Breakfast—comprised of eggs, bacon, sausages, rolls and muffins—could do with more variety, particularly if you're staying for more than a few nights.

■ **THE ROOMS** The most economical of the 29 rooms are the Pantone series: 10 compact capsules outfitted in shades like yellow, purple or red, with queen-size beds sunken into a tiled platform. Hue-appropriate song

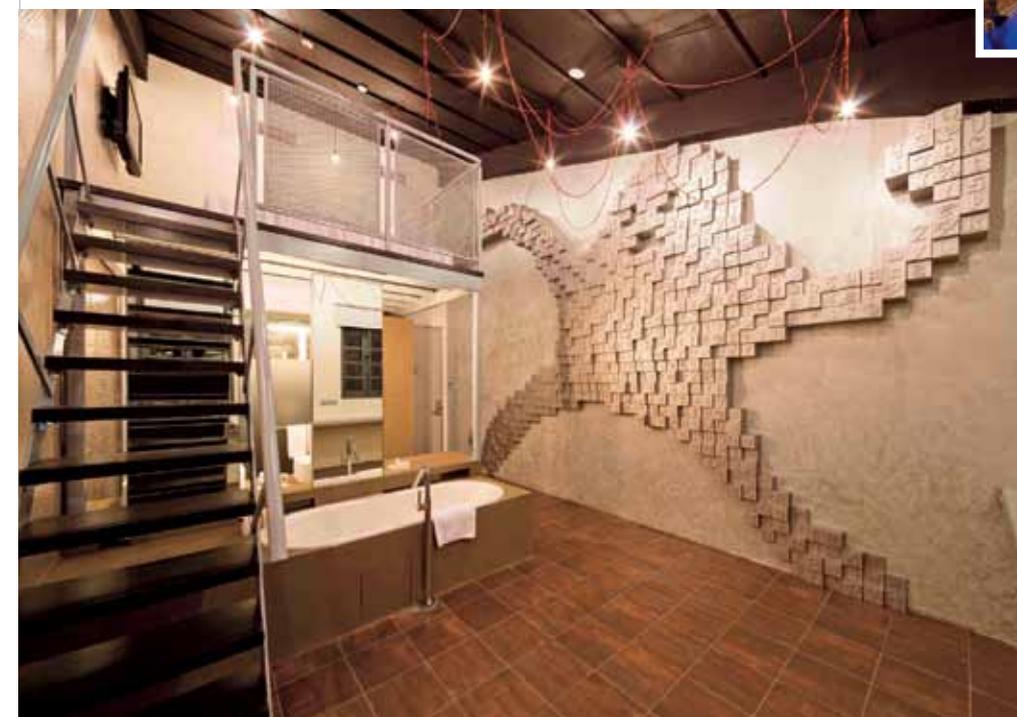
titles—"Purple Haze," "Yellow Submarine"—emblazon the walls in neon. Eight black-and-white Mono rooms take their cues from origami and pop-up books, with structural folds in the ceilings and illuminated wall cutouts—lamps, flowers—reminiscent of pen-and-ink illustrations. The extra space—larger beds, closets and desk areas—make them ideal for couples. The most spacious and luxurious rooms are saved for the top floor: with themes like spaceships and friendly monsters, these nine fantastical, lofted Whimsical suites are enough to transport you to another world.

■ **THE BATHROOM** In most rooms, the toilet and rainfall shower are enclosed in partially frosted glass stalls lined with tiny tiles to match the room's color theme; a compact sink-vanity area sits in between. (These facilities are not for the shy.) Deluxe and Whimsical rooms offer funky bathtubs, whether made of vintage cast iron or encased in transparent glass. The Kiehl's products in every room are a lovely touch.

■ **THE AMENITIES** Complimentary daily newspapers, water and soda are available in every room, along with free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TV's, iPod-friendly alarm clocks and espresso makers. The restaurant Cocotte, already a hit with locals, serves up rustic French dishes like steamed mussels and roast pork in Dijon mustard, while its loungey bar area is a comfortable spot to sip an espresso or glass of wine, or even play a game of foosball. Just upstairs is an outdoor patio and rainbow-tiled Jacuzzi for guests. +



Back to the Future Clockwise from above: Wanderlust's lobby blends old and new; the hotel is converted from a 1920's schoolhouse; a tech-inspired Whimsical Ascii suite.



COURTESY OF WANDERLUST (8)

Radical Rooms Clockwise from top: A typewriter sofa at Wanderlust; a Mono room designed by DP Architects, the team behind the Esplanade and the Singapore Flyer; a Whimsical Tree loft; a spaceship-themed suite; the hotel's Pantone rooms are compact but stylish.

